(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has urged to arrange for bank guarantee to NAFED for commercial purchase of chillies in the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Centre to persuade NAFED to intervene in the market for purchase, to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir. However, a request had been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to arrange for bank guarantee to NAFED to undertake procurement of chillies under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).

(b) NAFED was directed to procure chillies as per the terms and conditions approved by this Department.

Motivating farmers for non-traditional Crops

†633. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated by Government to motivate the farmers for producing non-traditional crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider to introduce such a scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal to introduce such a scheme.

Expenditure on research and analysis in agriculture sector

†634. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is necessary to enhance the present expenditure on research and analysis in the agricultural sector, with a view to achieve four percent annual growth rate in that sector, during the coming years;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) the percentage of funds decided to be increased by Government?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.